



Different Does Not Mean Less



"I used to misunderstand what others would say or do sometimes and it used to affect me a lot emotionally," says soon to graduate Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) student Justin Woods in his explanation of the effect of Autism in his life.

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are often described as complex brain disorders that primarily result in impairments in social interactions, language, and sensory integration. However, as Justin points out, "There are emotional implications that are just as important to consider." He added, "In my later years of grade school, it used to make me question my ability to trust most of the people around me because almost everybody around me was trying to pass some sort of judgment about people like me. Judgment from peers and other

people in society is often a common side effect that affects people with Autism emotionally."

More and more people are becoming aware of Autism and its effects. At TRC, the Social Training Group students, including Justin, set out to achieve a goal of helping to educate the members of the TRC community on Autism. Decorating puzzle pieces (the international Autism sign) with slogans and artwork, the group devoted their time and artistic abilities to promote the message, "Different, not less" by sharing those puzzle pieces with students and staff. Justin stated, "Everyone should truly understand the meaning of 'different, not less.' Just because people with ASDs are different, does not mean that they are less important than others. We can go through many of the same things that every other human being can go through. Just because we are different psychologically than others does not mean that we are any less important." Justin's sign which he holds proudly in the picture above perhaps says it best, "We all can be different and similar (to) each other, no matter what our background story is." Indeed, *different* does not mean *less*. By Martine McGroarty, TRC Speech and Language Pathologist

TRC Advisory Council

WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY APPOINTED AC MEMBERS: Mari Shackelford- Asst. Dir. TN Veterans Employment and Training Service, US Dept. of Labor; Di Anne Shirley-Lead VR Specialist, Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Compensated Work Therapy; Dr. Amy VanWynsberghe- Clinical Administrator/Positive Behavioral Support Provider, American Health & Wellness Institute; Beth Duffield-VP of Workforce Dev., Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce; H.G. Cole-Community Representative and Owner of Lube Pro; Gary Sheerer and Harold Hyatt, Industrial Electrical Maintenance Instructors, TN Technology Center; Nina Staples- former Chief Officer of Arlington DIDD Dev. Ctr., Memphis; Bill Grothe-BMI, Sr. Dir. Finance and Sr. Legal Counsel (retired); Jill Grothe-Sr. VP Dir. of Marketing, Regions Bank and BMI, Dir. Inside Sales and Client Services (both former); Dr. Janet Clodfelter-Dentist and Parent of former TRC student; Rebecca George-Process Improvement Industrial Engineer Consultant; and Yovancha Lewis-Brown- Assistant VR Director Field Operations. *Continued Page 2....*

A “Fair” Day in Music City

By “Special Invitation Only” was extended to a handful of TRC students in July to participate in the Music City Center pre-career fair for the new Omni Hotel scheduled to open in the fall. The Nashville event gave TRC students an opportunity to exercise the skills and techniques learned in class with Ms. Nancy Patterson, TRC Job Seeking Skills Training Instructor (JSST).

Applications and resumes the students had created were provided for position interviews offered by the hotel. TRC staff Felicia Moody (Vocational Instructor/Computers) and Cyndi Miller, (Rehab Assistant in Food Services Training) worked with the students in building their confidence as they practiced handshakes and possible responses for their interview process. Each student was called for his/her interview as TRC staff waited. Staff report that each of the applicants exited their interviews with a smile and confident comments. The students all now anxiously await a contact call from the hotel offering a job placement at the Omni.

Busy, Busy, Busy, “Live Work”



Live Work? We have it! TRC provides internal training opportunities (ITO) through live work scenarios for students to apply learned skills before entering the work force. An outstanding job of reshaping the TRC grounds with fresh landscaping and the spreading of mulch was provided by John Martine (Building Maintenance) and Isaiah Deeter (Groundskeeping), pictured left, and Derek Young (Building Maintenance) and Nate Burton (Groundskeeping), pictured right. Pat White, maintenance staff, trained/supervised the “Live Work” project.

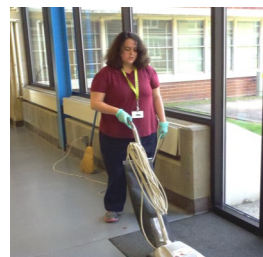


ETO

THANKS Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) in Smyrna for working as an External Training Opportunity (ETO) for students in the Warehouse Training program! Yakeista Dunston, Rehab Assistant, met with TSC Mgr. Jonathan Gray and Assistant Mgr. Salena Scott to set up the “Live Work” site. Jonathan and Salena work with TRC students Monday’s and Wednesday’s from 8:30 until 11am to provide experience in a “Live Work” environment. TSC also serves as an internship site for students in the Warehouse Program.

ITO

Brandi Street and Xavier Robertson (right), develop their commercial cleaning skills in an Internal Training Opportunity (ITO). TRC Housekeeping staff Gladys Smith and Richard Brooks work directly with the students providing an on-the-job training experience allowing them to learn commercial cleaning techniques from the experts at TRC.



TRC Advisory Council *Continued from Page 1....*

Meeting for the first time September 27 as the newly appointed TRC Advisory Council are the 13 exemplary industry and business representatives selected to serve in this advisory capacity. “To have advisors for our Center with the varied business backgrounds each of our Council members bring as well as the insight of a parent of a former student is more than exciting,” stated Becky Rhea, Asst. Superintendent. “With our new three-year Strategic Plan in the final stages of development, we look forward to the input and expertise this group of professionals will share with us. It’s just another step in TRC’s always moving forward to provide the best service possible.”

Student Success



Dedric Wright enrolled in the Food Service Program at TRC in September 2012. Completing the program in February 2013, he received his certificate for Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendant. Using his food service skills, he secured a position on May 9 at Gallatin Health Care located within walking distance of his home. He prepares all of the drinks for the trays, delivers carts to the nurses' stations, and works in the dish room. Way to go Dedric!

Working in Washington, D.C. for a law firm as a legal assistant for 18 months, Zack Phillips' career came to a sudden halt in March of 2006 when he sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) after being hit by a car. After the accident, Zack came to TRC and spent seven months in the TBI program receiving therapy in occupational, vision, physical, and speech as well as vocational and psychological services. While completing his training in the TBI program, he received instruction in job readiness skills, job interviewing, and completed his resume and job applications.



While at TRC, Zack was described by the TBI Treatment Team members as "a very positive and upbeat person who is a good role model to other students" and that he was "determined and realistic about his future." Zack is known at TRC to "have the ability to use humor to his advantage when dealing with negative situations and also in dealing with his own deficits." Staff predicted that his determination and organizational skills would enable him to perform a wide variety of job tasks in the future. Their prediction proved right on track. Zack successfully passed the Real Estate Exam and completed the General Principles of Real Estate. Currently, he is an affiliate broker with Village Real Estate in Nashville. He also enjoys volunteering as a peer mentor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center with the Trauma Survivors Network, running, cycling or visiting the gym, and spending time with his family. Zack credits TRC with providing a positive experience for him and that the interactions with staff were invaluable in helping him adapt to social and working settings outside TRC.

Seth Glidewell's Farewell Address

Seth Glidewell's dream to provide a "Farewell Address" to his fellow students in Vision Impairment Services upon completion of his program became a reality just prior to his departure. Seth's address to his fellow VIS classmates and staff as well as Assistant Superintendent Becky Rhea was given at the end of his six-week TRC training period. After completion of his training in Orientation and Mobility, Adaptive Kitchen Skills, Home and Personal Management, Adaptive Communication Skills and Transitional Skills, Seth set the day for his address and invited his audience to the following presentation during his discharge staffing:

"Good morning my fellow TRC'ers! This is my final address, or my only address to the school that I loved and cherished for the past six weeks. To my friends, who I love, I will miss them dearly. To my teachers, I would like to say thank you for teaching me. And to the dorm staff, I also say thank you for caring for me. To my mobility instructor, Tom Sullivan, I want to say thank you for taking me on those mobility lessons. To my family, I say thank you for sending me to TRC to learn. To Ms. Tammy Burnett and Ms. April Meredith and even to Mr. Elgin Pratchett and finally to Mr. Steven Foster and even to his dog Ollie, and to Ms. Becky Higdon, thank you for being such good friends. And even though sometimes you tease me. And in conclusion, I leave you with this one final quote. 'Ask not what TRC can do for you. Ask what you can do for TRC.' Thank you. God bless you. May God bless TRC and may God bless the United States of America."

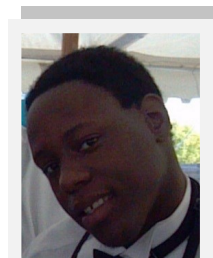


An avid history buff, Seth's exit plan was to return to his home in Brownsville and seek a volunteer opportunity working on the information desk at Casey Jones Village in Jackson.

In Memory of Nero Thomas



A smile on his face and a dedication to work is the way staff will remember former TRC student, Nero Thomas. Nero passed in his sleep July 9 at his home. Linda Baharloo, Vocational Training Supervisor remembers Nero fondly, "he was so sweet and wonderful and I loved working with him and talking to him." Nero enrolled in the Food Service Program at TRC in June 2012 and received his certificate of completion last November. He was proud of his internship position and could not wait to give his employer report to Food Service. Pictured left, Nero had just returned from the Farmers Market and was very proud of his purchase. Pictured right, he poses for a quick picture while he worked as a server at a Nashville event with the Food Service training class. He left wonderful memories with all who knew him.



June 8, 1992-July 9, 2013

Devoted to the Mission-A New Direction



"I am thrilled to be part of the TRC team and am totally dedicated and devoted to TRC's mission!", says Marvin Jones, new Director of Nursing in Student Health (SH). With over 20 years of experience working in the healthcare industry, Marvin is also a U.S. Air Force veteran who enjoys camping, cooking, motorcycling, and traveling with Judy, his wife of 20 years. Kristin Young returns to TRC working as part of the nursing administrative team. She began as a staff nurse in 2011 and was promoted to Assistant Director of Nursing in 2012. Kristin brings 21 years of nursing experience to SH. Both Marvin and Kris are eagerly at work enhancing the healthcare experience for TRC students and both state that they enjoy the challenges of assisting adults with disabilities.

TRC Welcomes New Staff

Cathy Anderson	Marvin Jones
Taliah McClough	Jackie Miller
Aretha Butler	Jennifer Bingham
Larry Peoples	Ryan Clark
Cory Gosa	Toni Edwards
Kelly Crawford	Stefanie Phillips
Jamie Tomlin	Anthony Wesner

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Mission Statement

Tennessee Rehabilitation Center-Smyrna offers person-centered comprehensive services in a supportive learning environment to individuals with disabilities to increase independence and employment potential.

Organizational Values

Because we value our students:
We are considerate
We are knowledgeable
We are resourceful and creative
We are flexible and adaptable
We are committed to excellence
We are leading by example
We are attentive and responsive to students' needs
We are making a POSITIVE difference